



PATENT  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application Of: )  
)  
Jerome AUCOUTURIER et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1644  
)  
Application Number: 09/698,121 ) Examiner: G. R. Ewoldt, Ph.D.  
)  
Filed: October 30, 2000 )  
)  
For: NOVEL VACCINE COMPOSITION AND USE OF  
SURFACTANTS AS ADJUVANTS OF IMMUNITY

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JUNE 3, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

REMARKS

This reply is responsive to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2002 ("Office Action"). Applicants have reviewed and thoroughly considered the Office Action. In view of the Office Action, the following remarks are provided for Examiner's consideration. Claims 19-20 and 30-32 are currently pending in the application. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance be entered on an expedited basis.

Applicants and Applicants' undersigned representatives thank the Examiner for the courtesy of his time and attention during the interview on September 10, 2002. During the interview, Applicants contended that one of ordinary skill in the art would be familiar with the terms "EO" for ethoxylation index and "HLB numbers" for hydrophile-lipophile balance numbers--particularly for those of skill with surfactants and adjuvants. The Examiner alleged that one in the immunological arts might not necessarily be familiar with these terms and suggested that Applicants submit, on the record, references which demonstrate the common usage of the terms "EO" and "HLB numbers".

As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants submit herewith several references which explain, define and demonstrate use of "EO" and "HLB numbers".

Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing comments traverse the rejection of claims 19-20 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being based on a disclosure which is not enabling. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be removed and the claims allowed. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or comments, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below listed telephone number.

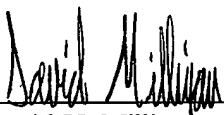
In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges, please charge or credit any difference to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS

Dated: November 4, 2002  
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